

# HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 346

By DeBerry L

A RESOLUTION to create a joint study committee to examine the current status of the chronic disease of asthma in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, more than 353,000 adults and 118,500 children in Tennessee suffer from asthma, the most chronic health condition in the world; and

WHEREAS, among the 2007 Asthma Capitals in the country, Tennessee has four cities ranked in the 50 "Most Challenging Places to Live with Asthma," including Knoxville (4<sup>th</sup>), Johnson City (22<sup>nd</sup>), Chattanooga (26<sup>th</sup>) and Memphis (30<sup>th</sup>); and

WHEREAS, among children ages five to seven, asthma is the number one cause of school absences related to a chronic disease, leading to an average 3.7 school days missed annually per child; and

WHEREAS, asthma continues to disproportionately affect minority populations, with African-Americans' emergency room visits, hospitalizations, and deaths from asthma three times higher than for Caucasian Americans, according to the Center for Disease Control; and

WHEREAS, asthma has devastating effects, regardless of age, race, ethnic group, or gender; and

WHEREAS, individuals with controlled asthma can lead quality, productive lives; and

WHEREAS, medical experts, the Center for Disease Control, and the Environmental Protection Agency agree that asthma can be controlled by following a structured medical management plan that includes consultation and follow-up with medical providers, appropriate use of medications, avoidance of "triggers" for asthma attacks, and the monitoring of certain physical conditions and readings; and

WHEREAS, educating Tennessee's health care community and all citizens of Tennessee will help ensure an optimal approach to controlling this chronic disease; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that there is hereby created the Asthma Strategic Planning joint study committee, which shall undertake a thorough study of the current status of the chronic disease of asthma in Tennessee, including the disease's prevalence and the current health care delivery system for asthma victims. The study shall determine a statewide strategy for reducing the prevalence of asthma as well as improving the health status of asthma victims.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the committee shall consist of five (5) members of the House of Representatives and five (5) members of the Senate, to be appointed by the respective speakers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the committee shall be convened by the member with the most years of continuous service in the General Assembly, and at its first meeting shall elect a chair, vice-chair, and such other officers the committee deems necessary to carry out its duties and may conduct its meetings at such places and times as it deems necessary to carry out its work effectively.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the committee shall seek the input and participation of the Department of Education; the Department of Health; the TennCare Bureau; the Tennessee Commission of Children and Youth; and any other appropriate state agencies. It shall also invite input and participation from the American Lung Association; the Environmental Protection Agency; Children's Hospital Alliance of Tennessee; the Tennessee Academy of Family Physicians; the American Academy of Pediatrics; allergists and pulmonologists, and such other groups the committee deems appropriate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all legislative members of the special joint committee who are duly elected members of the General Assembly shall remain members of such committee until the committee reports its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the special joint committee shall timely report its findings and recommendations for state action, including any proposed legislation, to the Speaker and the members of the House Health and Human Resources Committee no later than December 10, 2007, at which time the committee shall cease to exist.